

The Leesburg Tree Commission met in regular session on Monday, March 22, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. in the lower level meeting room, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, VA. Members present were: Ms. Pritchard, Mr. Groothius, Ms. Bell, Mr. Hower, Mr. Zoldos, Ms. Wall and Mr. Hicks. Staff was represented by Jay S. Banks and Susan DeJong.

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 22, 1999 meeting were approved as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Two guests introduced themselves. First, Mr. Bruce Dewar, who is here to talk about the possibility of planting trees on the median of Memorial Drive. Second, Mr. Fred Fox, the Vice President of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, here to talk about a Riparian Forest Project in Leesburg.

Mr. Fred Fox spoke about the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy which has a membership of over 200 active members. The Conservancy promotes the conservation and preservation of wildlife habitats throughout the county. They have educational programs, a very active children's program, a monthly lecture series, and they primarily supply the manpower to Loudoun County's stream monitoring program in conjunction with the Audobon Naturalists Society, the Soil and Water Conservation District and other supporters.

One of the projects the Conservancy has adopted is the Stream Quality Project. The Conservancy applied for and received a Chesapeake Bay Restoration Grant which they hope to use for a Riparian Forest Restoration Project here in Leesburg. The Grant of \$7,800.00 has been used for some educational materials, hire instructors for the Stream Monitoring Program, data collecting, GIS, digitizing and related projects. Mr. Fox was recently asked about the possibility of doing a Riparian Forest Restoration Project in the Town of Leesburg. After studying the results of a stream monitoring project the Conservancy concluded that there were some stream quality problems within the Town of Leesburg. It was decided that the stream which forms the boundary between Ida Lee Park and the Morven Park property would be suitable for this tree planting project. 400 hundred trees and shrubs were ordered with the Grant Funds and will be used towards this project. The plantings will commence on Saturday March 27th and continue on subsequent weekends until they are finished. Tree shelters will be used to help facilitate their healthy growth.

Mr. Hicks stated that he saw that Parks and Rec. was on his list and had heard Mr. Fox mention Mr. Johnson's name a couple of times but wondered if he had approached the Environmental Advisory Committee on this issue because they are very interested in the water quality issue.

Mr. Fox said that (at Earl's suggestion) he had stopped by the EAC's meeting earlier, spoke with John Johnston and handed out some fact sheets to them and if they had any questions or wanted him to make a presentation that he would be in this building for a while tonight.

The other guest Mr. Bruce Dewar was there to confirm the fact that Town staff recommends trees not be planted in the median on Memorial Drive.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Pritchard asked to talk about the Tree Commission budget. There was some concern as to whether their budget was approved by the Council as adopted by the Tree Commission or not. Mr. Zoldos said that he would look into this and report the results at the next Tree Commission meeting.

Mr. Banks reported that a booth for the Flower and Garden Show on April 24th and 25th for the Tree Commission has been reserved. Also at this time Mr. Banks is waiting for a Town check to order the seedlings to hand out at the Flower & Garden Show. A Southern Red Oak will be ordered because the Northern Red Oak is no longer available. (A thousand seedlings at the \$200.00 level will be ordered) Mr. Banks also reported that the Arbor Day Tree, a 4 inch caliper Red Oak, was planted this morning at Harper Park Middle School. Mr. Groothius volunteered to be at the Arbor Day Event from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Ms. Bell said she could be there from noon until 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Pritchard then asked for volunteers for the Flower and Garden Show booth. Mr. Hicks said he could be there from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the 24th. Groothius and Ms. Pritchard thought that they could be there all day. Mr. Dewar volunteered himself along with his wife Julie for the 25th.

There was no new information to be reported on the Historic Tree Project.

Ms. Bell asked that the Tree Commission provide her with 3000 flyers on the 2000 By 2000 project to hand out at the schools by mid April.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Banks reported that he has been contacted by American Home Landscapes, Inc. and they would like to donate the 2000th tree for the 2000 by 2000 project. In addition to that they would like to hand out the 2000 by 2000 brochures when they complete a residential landscaping job within the Town of Leesburg.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Ms. Bell reported that she attended the Keep Loudoun Beautiful, (KLB) meeting. This meeting was for the once a year clean up for the entire County and what KLB was looking for were volunteers to be team leaders to organize groups of volunteers to clean up certain areas. Ms. Bell then handed out some information about this project along with some other information obtained from the Internet about wetlands and woodlands.

Mr. Zoldos then thanked the Commission for an excellent presentation to the Town Council.

Mr. Hower volunteered to help Ms. Wall prepare the Tree Commission's display board for Arbor Day.

Mr. Hicks spoke about how he would like to see Phase II of the Wildlife Conservancy's project for the Town of Leesburg implemented sooner rather than later. He also reminded the Commission of the Joint Commissions meeting.

Ms. Pritchard then briefed the Commission on the minutes from the EAC meeting. Basically they just restated that the Parks and Recreation, EAC and the Tree Commission are going to share minutes. EAC completed their budget and sent it to the council. They also would like to get involved in the Town's Trash contract. The EAC would also like to get a recycling program going at the Flower and Garden Show.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Jay S. Banks, Town Arborist

Susan C. DeJong, Recording Secretary